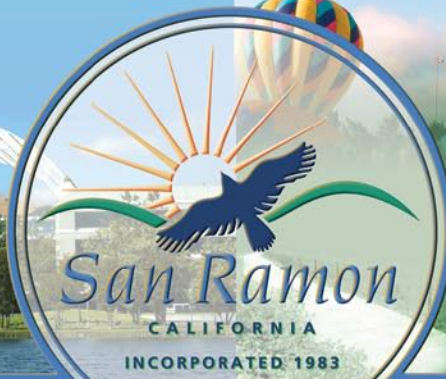


SAN RAMON CITY REPORT



Spring 2006 ♦ Volume Three ♦ Edition One

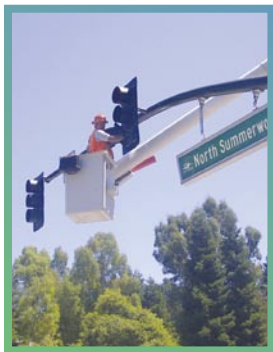
City prepares for Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District improvements

San Ramon residents are extremely proud of our clean, safe and well-maintained neighborhoods – we truly live in a beautiful city. In fact, because our city is well-lit and nicely landscaped, we enjoy higher property values than other surrounding cities.

The City has done everything it can to maintain and increase the efficiency of our landscape and lighting services. Every landscaping contract is put through a competitive bidding process to get the lowest possible costs, and the city has installed energy efficient lights, improved irrigation technology, and used drought-tolerant landscaping to save money on water and energy costs.



Nevertheless, the costs of energy, water, materials, and labor continue to rise. If the City is to continue to repair lights and preserve the landscaping in neighborhoods at the current levels, it will be necessary to increase the Lighting and Landscape Assessment by about \$1.16 per month.



Well-maintained street lighting means that even at night and in bad weather, drivers can see traffic signs, other drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

The City hosted several Lighting and Landscape Assessment District community meetings and will also meet with homeowner associations or other neighborhood groups to provide information and answer questions. Please visit the City website at

www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us or contact Steven Spedowski at 973-2653 for more information or to schedule a meeting in your neighborhood.

Become a San Ramon Commissioner

Interested in Planning the Future of San Ramon? Have a great idea for Parks and Community Services? The City is now accepting applications from San Ramon residents interested in serving on the Parks and Community Services Commission or the Planning Commission.

Simply complete an application and supplemental questionnaire and submit to the City Clerk's office by **5:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, 2006**. The City Council will interview all Commission applicants. For more information on each Commission and to download an application and supplemental questionnaire, log onto the City's website at www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us, or call 973-2539. Influencing the future of San Ramon is an exciting way to continue supporting the best city in Contra Costa County!

Take advantage of the City's Street Sweeping Services

The City of San Ramon Public Services Department maintains the City's street sweeping schedule. Residential streets are swept twice a month (for example, on the first and third Tuesday of the month).

Help us keep streets clean and safe by knowing when your street is scheduled for sweeping so that parked vehicles and other obstructions are cleared from the streets. The street sweepers often have to go around parked cars in residential areas leaving unsightly debris that can reduce the flow of water into the storm drain system



and can eventually cause flooding. Another thing that you can do is make sure that you do not rake leaves or yard clippings into the gutters. Large concentrated piles of yard waste, when sucked up into the sweeper,

causes the sweeper to clog and break down, which can interrupt the sweeping schedule. We've made it easy by providing online, a schedule by city street. If we work together we can make "clean sweeps" to ensure that the City of San Ramon continues to maintain a high standard of aesthetics and safety. To look up your street sweeping day, please visit the city website at www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us. If your street is not listed, is listed in more than one zone, or if you have any questions regarding our street sweeping services, please call 925-973-2800.

Youth Police Academy Promotes Good Citizenship

The San Ramon Police Department's Youth Academy provides youth with an inside look at local law enforcement and is designed to inspire good citizenship through criminal justice education. The Academy spans a three month period, meets bi-monthly on Saturdays, and training topics include: Laws of arrest, search and seizure, vehicle stops, and hands-on police training.

The Youth Academy is offered to 9 - 12 grade students who reside in San Ramon. There is no charge to participate in the Academy, and class begins Saturday, **April 28, 2007**. For information on how to receive an application, please call the Youth Academy Coordinator at (925) 973-2718 or visit www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us.

Save the environment....Don't Toss Used batteries....

Effective February 2006, most consumer electronics, and products containing batteries and mercury were banned by state law from being placed in the trash for disposal.

In response to these new regulations, the City of San Ramon has placed collection containers at several convenient locations where residents can drop off small amounts of household batteries: City Hall, Library, Community Center, Senior Center, Pool, Dougherty Station Community Center and Dougherty Station Library. Hazardous waste products can be dangerous for the environment when not disposed of properly.

The City will also be sponsoring a mobile Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event on **May 20, 2006**, that will be free to residents. Residents need to schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-207-8222.

San Ramon residents and businesses which generate small quantities of hazardous wastes are also eligible to use the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez. Hazardous waste generated from households in the central Contra Costa County area will be accepted at no charge. There is a nominal fee for small businesses. Please visit their website at <http://www.centalsan.org/services/hhwcf.html> or call 1-800-646-1431 for hours of operation, a map to the facility, and detailed information. You may also check California's website at www.ciwmb.ca.gov for information on household products considered to be hazardous.

San Ramon's Zoning Ordinance to be Updated

The City of San Ramon is in the process of updating the 1989 zoning ordinance to support the new land uses and policies in the General Plan 2020 approved by the voters in March 2002. The purpose of a zoning ordinance is to establish various classes of zoning districts and govern the use of land and the placement of buildings and improvements within those individual districts. For example, the residential zoning district describes how far a house or structure must be set back from a property line and how high it can be. In addition, the zoning ordinance will specify what types of uses are allowed in a retail center or an office complex.

Proposed changes to the zoning ordinance are minimal. The General Plan added new land use designations, such as Mixed Use and Very High Density Residential, to achieve consistency between the General Plan 2020 and the Zoning Code. The Planning Commission recently held public hearings to receive public input on the proposed draft. Public hearings are anticipated to be scheduled before the City Council in April / May 2006. The draft zoning ordinance is available at www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us and we encourage all residents and business owners to review the draft and participate in the upcoming meetings. Questions regarding the updating process may be directed to Sara Buizer, Associate Planner at (925) 973-2567.

One Stop Permit Center

The City is pleased to announce the addition of the Engineering Department to the Permit Center two (2) days a week to provide a full range of plan-check services to our customers in one convenient location.

The following services are available at the Permit Center located at 2226 Camino Ramon for the hours listed below:

Planning Services

M - F 8:30AM to 5:00PM

Building and Safety Services

MWF 7:30AM to 5:00PM

TTH 8:30AM to 5:00PM

Engineering Services (New Hours)

Tuesday 8:30 am to 1:00PM

Thursday 12:30 pm to 5:00PM

Ridesharing encouraged by the City of San Ramon

Ridesharing is a great way to help reduce traffic congestion and air pollution!

The City of San Ramon and 511 Contra Costa encourages the use of commute alternatives and are committed to providing residents and businesses with cost-effective, convenient and viable alternatives to driving alone. Here are a few of the available commuter programs incentives:

1. Vanpool Incentive - "New" vanpool riders are eligible for half of the associated expenses the first three months.
2. Vanpool Driver Bonus - Start a new vanpool, keep it on the road for a year, with a minimum of 6 riders to be eligible for a \$1,000 bonus.



3. Carpool Incentive - Commuters who carpool to work a minimum of two days per week, for eight weeks are eligible to receive a gas card worth \$60.00.
4. Transit Incentive - Ride transit and be eligible to receive up to \$60 BART pass and/or bus pass, which is approximately a week's worth of a work-related commute.
5. ACE Shuttle - Ride the ACE shuttle from the San Ramon Transit Center and receive one month free pass on ACE.

6. Youth Transit Ticket - This program provides (2) 17-ride tickets for students.

Funding for these programs is provided by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air in cooperation with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and the City of San Ramon. If you have any questions, contact www.511ContraCosta.org, or Darlene Amaral, San Ramon Transportation Analyst located at 3180 Crow Canyon Pl., Ste #140, - telephone (925) 973-2655 or Email: damaral@sanramon.ca.gov.



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P o s t a l P a t r o n

ECRWSS

Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 18th

The Bay Area Bicycle Coalition will host the 12th annual **Bike to Work Day on Thursday, May 18, 2006.**

Bike to Work Day encourages residents to try bicycling and is part of a continued effort to relieve traffic congestion, improve bicycling, and ease motor vehicle emissions in the Bay Area. Energizer Stations will be placed in each Bay Area county where you can stop by on your bike for refreshments, giveaways, information or simply to



be 'cheered on' by participants. Energizer Stations will be open during morning commute hours and some will even re-open during the evening commute. Participants can register on www.511.org. Your registration is automatically entered into a drawing to win a grand prize!

We are also launching the "**Team Bike Challenge**" this year. This campaign and contest serves to encourage existing bicycle commuters to recruit their colleagues,

friends, and neighbors, to form a team to bicycle to work, school, conduct errands, or play during the month of May. The team with the most trips made by bicycle by the end of May will win a grand prize! Go to www.511.org to learn more!

If you are interested in volunteering on "Bike to Work Day" please contact your Contra Costa County representative Darlene Amaral, City of San Ramon at 925-973-2655 or damaral@sanramon.ca.gov.

San Ramon Can Expedite Your Adventure

Escape to exotic lands!! The San Ramon City Clerk's office can facilitate your plans. We provide year long passport services to the public, including providing forms, general passport information, processing both new and renewal passport applications, and mailing services.

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative takes effect at the end of 2006, and will make it mandatory to carry a passport to such destinations as Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean. Currently, routine processing of a passport takes approximately 8 weeks. If you have travel plans that require a passport in less

time, expedited services are also available for an additional fee.

We are available to help you Monday - Friday from Noon until 4:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary! The City's passport hotline is 925-973-2533. Call the City Clerk's office at 925-973-2539. Our office is located at City Hall, 2222 Camino Ramon.

C o n t a c t I n f o r m a t i o n

City Council:

H. Abram Wilson, *Mayor*
Carol J. Rowley, *Vice Mayor*
Dave Hudson, *Councilmember*
Scott Perkins, *Councilmember*
Jim Livingstone, *Councilmember*

Helpful San Ramon #'s

Building973-2580
Business License973-2513
City Clerk973-2539
City Council973-2532
Human Resources973-2503
DS Library973-3380
Library.....973-2850

Passport Services973-2533
Planning973-2560
Police973-2700
DS Police Sub Station973-3300
Parks and Community Services973-3200
DS Community Center973-3350
Senior Center973-3250
Olympic Pool973-3240
Public Services973-2800

www.sanramon.ca.gov